

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and further examination are requested. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 28 and 29 are amended, claim 30 is cancelled, leaving claims 1, 2-24, and 26-29 pending with claims 1 and 24 being independent. No new matter has been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 28 and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Applicants submit that claims 28 and 29 have been amended to recite a non-transitory computer readable medium storing a program, and thus overcome this rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 3-23, 26, 27, 29 and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lekutai (US 2005/0240391) in view of Mikizo (JP 3-194653), and further in view of Hiroyuri et al. (JP 2002-041081).

Applicants submit that the claims as now pending are allowable over the cited prior art. Specifically, amended independent claim 1 now includes the subject matter of claim 30, and thus recites a speech recognition dictionary creation device for creating a speech recognition dictionary, wherein an abbreviated word generation unit is operable to generate an abbreviated word by deleting one or more syllables from syllable strings generated by a syllable string generation unit.

The cited prior art fails to disclose or render obvious such a device. In particular, the Examiner recognizes that the combination of Hiroyuri, Lekutai, and Mikizo does not disclose an abbreviated word generation unit operable to generate the abbreviated word by deleting one or more syllables from the syllable strings generated by the syllable string generation unit. *See* the October 14, 2010 Office Action, pg. 15. However, the Examiner contends that it would have been obvious, based on the Mikizo specification, to generate an abbreviated word based on the deleted syllable strings as taught by the combination of Hiroyuri, Lekutai, and Mikizo.

Applicants respectfully disagree. That is, Mikizio registers “TO GAI”, GAI GO”, AND “GAI DAI” in the phrase index as the KANJI abbreviated words of “Tokyo Gaikokugo

Daigaku". Thus, Mikizo generates the abbreviated words "東外 (*tou gai*)" and "外大 (*gai dai*)" out of "東 (*tou*)", "外 (*gai*)", and "大 (*dai*)". Mikizo uses these abbreviated words in a word search technique. However, Mikizio does not delete one or more syllables from syllable strings generated by a syllable string generation unit. Therefore, Applicants submit that, as recognized by the Examiner, the combination of Hiroyuri, Lekutai, and Mikizo does not disclose each of the elements of claim 1.

Moreover, any such modification of the Mikizo method would have rendered Mikizio inoperative for its intended purpose. If a proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification. *In re Gordon*, 733 F.2d 900, 221 USPQ 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984); *see also* MPEP§2143.01. If Mikizio were to delete syllables from the syllable string, Applicants submit that the Mikizo method would generate words, such as "tou ga" and "ga dai" for "tou gai" and "gai dai", respectively. Such a modification would result in Mikizo attempting to search using such abbreviated words with deleted syllables, which would not allow Mikizo to locate the proper full (or non-abbreviated word). Thus, modifying Mikizo, as suggested by the Examiner would have rendered Mikizo unsatisfactory for its intended purpose.

Since one of ordinary skill in the art would not have modified the Mikizo reference in this manner to render this element of independent claim 1 obvious, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited prior art.

Claims 24 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lekutai in view of Mikizo.

Applicants submit that independent claim 24 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited prior art for similar reasons to those set forth above. Namely, the cited prior art fails to disclose or render obvious a speech recognition dictionary creation method wherein the abbreviated word generation unit generates the abbreviated word by deleting one or more syllables from the syllable strings generated by the syllable string generation unit, as recited in independent claim 24.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims now pending in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe there are any remaining issues that must be resolved before this application can be allowed, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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